

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- sub a1
1. An audible alarm for use in an alarm system, the audible alarm producing a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals in response to a control signal.
 - sub.c1 2. The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein the audible alarm produces a prerecorded voice message.
 3. The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein the prerecorded voice message is stored at the audible alarm.
 - 10 4. The audible alarm of Claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller at the audible alarm that controls the audible alarm.
 - sub.B2 5. The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein the microcontroller receives the control signal from a control panel over a pair of lines.
 - sub.C1 6. The audible alarm of Claim 5, wherein the control panel further supplies power to the audible alarm over the pair of lines.
 - 15 7. The audible alarm of Claim 5, wherein the audible alarm includes a communications receiver that receives and interprets the control signal.
 8. The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the alarm signals includes a plurality of distinct tones.

9. The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the alarm signals includes a plurality of distinct audible patterns.

10. An audible alarm for use in an alarm system that produces a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals, the audible alarm being controlled by a control signal sent over a notification application circuit.

11. The audible alarm of Claim 10, wherein power is also supplied over the notification circuit.

12. The audible alarm of Claim 10, wherein the audible alarm produces a prerecorded voice message.

10 13. The audible alarm of Claim 10, wherein the prerecorded voice message is stored at the audible alarm.

14. The audible alarm of Claim 10, further comprising a microcontroller at the audible alarm that controls the audible alarm.

15. The audible alarm of Claim 14, wherein the microcontroller receives the control signal over the notification appliance from a control panel.

16. An audible alarm for use in an alarm system, comprising:
 an alarm generator to generate a plurality of distinct, audible alarm signals; and
 control of the alarm generator responsive to a control signal applied to the audible alarm.

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17. The audible alarm of Claim 16, wherein the audible alarm produces a prerecorded voice message.

sub. B6 18. The audible alarm of Claim 16, wherein the alarm generator receives the control signal from a control panel over a pair of lines which also supply power to the audible alarm over the pair of lines.

5 19. An alarm system comprising:
at least one audible alarm to generate plural distinct audible alarm signals; and
a system controller coupled to the audible alarm by a pair of lines, the system controller providing power over the pair of lines and sending a control signal over the pair of lines for directing the audible alarm to produce the plural distinct audible alarm signals.

sub. B6 20. The audible alarm of Claim 19, further comprising a microcontroller at the audible alarm that controls the audible alarm in response to the control signal.

15 21. The audible alarm of Claim 19, wherein the audible alarm produces a prerecorded voice message.

22. A method of controlling an alarm system, comprising:
providing an audible alarm coupled to a controller; and
controlling, with the controller, the audible alarm to produce a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals.

sub. C1 23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of providing power to the audible alarm with the controller.

24. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the step of producing, with the audible alarm, a prerecorded voice message.

25 A method for controlling an audible alarm in an alarm system comprising dynamically changing, with encoded signals over a power line, audible tones or patterns of the audible alarm.

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